

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 498

Introduced by Senator Cox

(Coauthors: Senators Dutton and Margett)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members DeVore, Shirley Horton, and Huff)

February 18, 2005

An act to add Chapter 3.55 (commencing with Section 44765) to Part 25 of the Education Code, relating to teachers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 498, as amended, Cox. California Troops to Teachers Program.

Existing federal law, the Troops to Teachers Program, provides financial assistance to eligible military personnel to transition to a career in teaching. Under that existing law, grants may be provided to eligible individuals for up to \$5,000 to pay for teacher certification costs or for up to \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families.

This bill would enact the California Troops to Teachers Program. The bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish and maintain the program, which would be funded through the annual Budget Act. The bill would provide grants to ~~qualified~~ members of the Armed Forces *who participate in the federal program and are selected by the commission, and who accept a teaching position in the public school system, with certain requirements. The bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to adopt regulations to implement the program and the federal Troops to Teachers Program, with certain requirements.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 *(a) The federal Troops to Teachers Program is a cooperative*
4 *program of the federal Department of Education and the*
5 *Department of Defense.*

6 *(b) The program, established in 1994, provides assistance to*
7 *long-serving military personnel interested in teaching as a*
8 *second career.*

9 *(c) California has participated in the program since it began,*
10 *however, less than 500 teachers have participated in the*
11 *program in this state.*

12 *(d) California expects a severe shortage in teachers in the next*
13 *20 years, including a 100,000 to 200,000, inclusive, teacher*
14 *shortage in mathematics, science, and teachers for pupils with*
15 *exceptional needs.*

16 *(e) The Legislature hereby establishes the California Troops*
17 *to Teachers Program to help reduce this expected shortage by*
18 *providing a financial incentive for more qualified individuals to*
19 *enter the teaching profession.*

20 **SECTION 1**

21 **SEC. 2.** Chapter 3.55 (commencing with Section 44765) is
22 added to Part 25 of the Education Code, to read:

23
24 **CHAPTER 3.55. CALIFORNIA TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM**

25
26 44765. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
27 “California Troops To Teacher Program.”

28 44766. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have
29 the following meanings:

30 (a) “Commission” means the Commission on Teacher
31 Credentialing.

32 (b) “Participant” means a member of the Armed Forces that is
33 eligible and selected to receive a grant pursuant to Section 44767.

34 (c) “Program” means the California Troops to Teachers
35 Program established in this chapter.

36 44767. (a) The commission shall establish and maintain the
37 program, ~~which shall be to the extent that the program is funded~~
38 through an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(b) Members of the Armed Forces described in subdivision (a) of Section 6673 of Title 20 of the United States Code are eligible for selection to participate in the program.

(c) The commission shall develop and maintain an application process based upon eligibility for the program pursuant to subdivision (b) and, in selecting participants, shall give priority to members of the Armed Forces who have educational or military experience in science, mathematics, special education, or vocational or technical subjects and agree to seek employment as science, mathematics, special education, or vocational or technical teachers.

(d) *The commission shall adopt regulations to implement this chapter and the federal Troops to Teachers Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6672 et seq.), and those regulations shall be consistent with the requirements of that federal program.*

44768. (a) To receive a grant under this chapter, a member of the Armed Forces shall ~~possess a valid credential pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 44200)~~ *be a participant in the federal Troops to Teachers Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6672 et seq.)* and shall be selected as a program participant pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 44767, and shall enter into an agreement with the commission to accept an offer of full-time employment as a teacher in the public school system for not less than three school years.

(b) The commission shall pay a participant in this program who enters into an agreement pursuant to subdivision (a), a grant of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). This grant shall be in addition to funds provided to the participant pursuant to the federal Troops to Teachers Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6672 et seq.), and any compensation for the services of the participant received from a school district.

(c) (1) If a participant voluntarily leaves, or is terminated for cause from, employment as a teacher in the public school system during the three years of required service in violation of the agreement required pursuant to subdivision (a), that participant shall reimburse the commission in an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount of the stipend or bonus as the unserved portion of required service bears to the three years of required service.

1 (2) A participant shall be excused from reimbursement under
2 paragraph (1) if the participant becomes permanently totally
3 disabled as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified
4 physician. The commission may also waive the reimbursement in
5 cases of extreme hardship to the participant, as determined by the
6 commission.

O